

ABSTRACT

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Multi-Protocol Communication Subsystem Controller

A common programming interface in a communication subsystem controller allows protocols to be developed or modified to communicate with the communication subsystem controller. Once a protocol layer is able to communicate with the communication subsystem controller, the protocol layer is stacked with other protocol layers compatible with the communication subsystem controller. A table in the communication subsystem controller specifies an order of protocol layers in the protocol stack. These protocol layers in the protocol stack communicate with their adjacent protocol layers through the communication subsystem controller. The communication subsystem controller does not have knowledge of any protocol specific information as the protocol specific information resides only with each protocol layer. Error recovery is built into the communication subsystem controller. In the event of a node failure, there is no loss of the communication subsystem information and communication between an application program and the protocol stack can resume from the point before the node failure.